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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

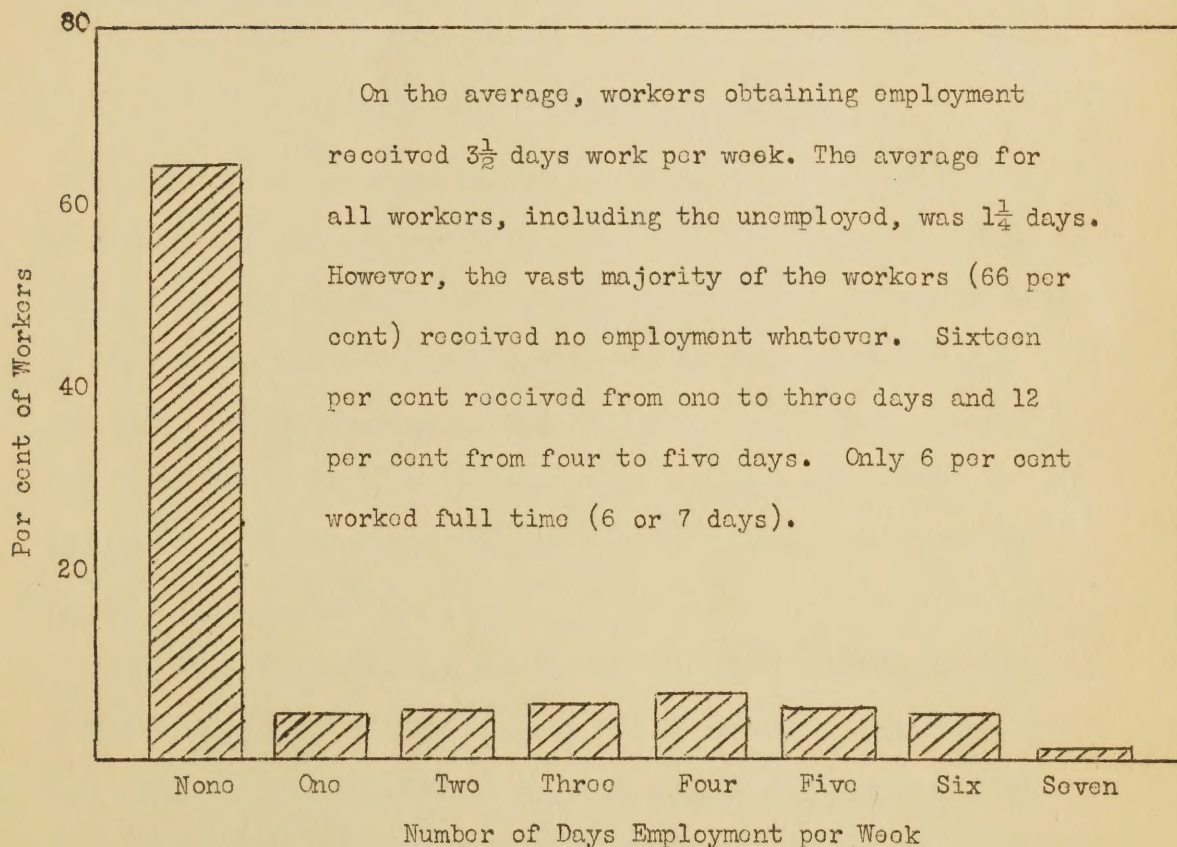
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
and
Farm Security Administration



Employment Situation of Agricultural Workers Living in
FSA Migratory Labor Camps

Current Report No. 5

Arizona-California Camps, May 18 to June 15, 1940



Berkeley, California

July 5, 1940

For official use only

Employment Situation of Agricultural Workers Living
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Arizona-California Camps
May 18 to June 15, 1940

The data for these reports are supplied from a ten per cent sample of all the families in the camps. An entirely new and different sample is selected every week. All members of each household who are working or seeking work are reported upon with regard to their employment activities during the week in which the particular family is included in the sample.

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS UNIMPROVED

Employment continued to decline slowly from the high point reached during the week ending May 11, except for the week ending June 8 when the proportion of workers employed at least one-half day or more during the week was 41 per cent (the high point for this year was 45%). On the average for the four weeks, employment conditions were about the same as in the preceding four weeks, one-third of the workers finding employment and one-half of the families having at least one person employed.

Average days employed per worker, for those working and for all workers, remained about the same as for the previous four weeks — 3.64 and 1.25, respectively. Likewise, the employment index for these four weeks was similar to that of the period April 20 to May 18, remaining at an average level of approximately 20 for both four week periods. Compared to the May 18 figure, the index declined slightly until the week ending June 8 when the measure reached the second highest point

for the year, indicating at that point that a quarter of the available man-days were utilized during the week. The separate indices for California and Arizona, showing different pictures, explain the rise during the third week. In California the index remained the same for the first week as it had been for May 18 and the three remaining weeks stayed at a slightly lower level. However, in Arizona the figures were quite erratic, with the week ending June 8 having an index of 57.

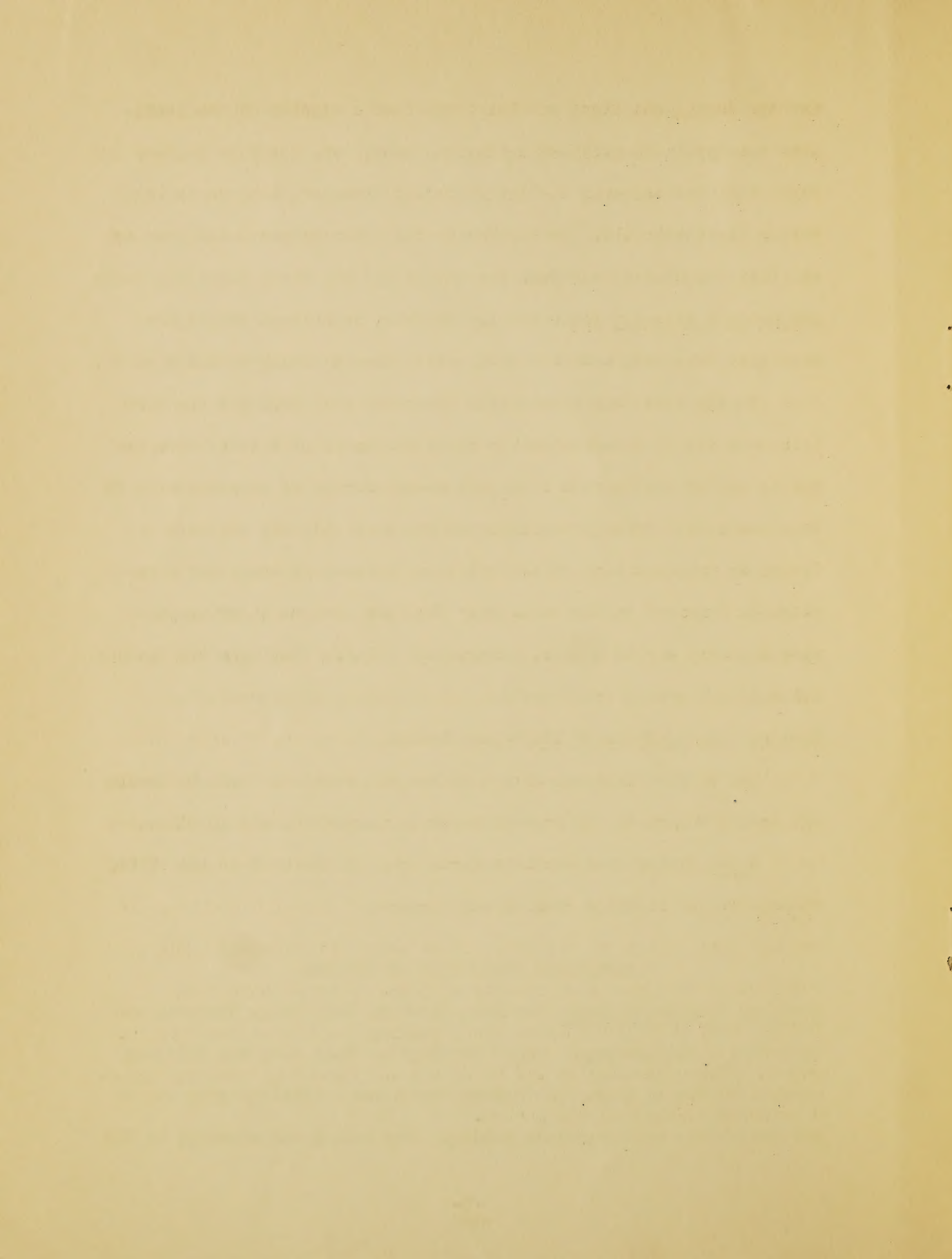
During this four week period those who were employed any part of a week received approximately the same number of days of work as during the preceding four week period—an average of approximately $3\frac{1}{2}$ days per week. Average earnings per day were slightly improved (\$2.43 as compared with \$2.16) and this improvement contributed to slightly improved weekly earnings. Families with at least one employed member earned a weekly average of \$11.56. But when the total earnings are spread over families not receiving employment, the average earning falls to \$6.04 per family.

The average distance from camp to jobs remained 7 miles. During the spring season the average distance was approximately 10 miles.

Note: Public assistance projects are not included in any of the employment and earnings data of this report.

EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS BY REGIONS

Northern California Camps (Windsor, Gridley, Yuba City, Winters, and Thornton) - The principal job at Gridley and Yuba City was thinning peaches at 30¢ an hour. At Winters there was a little haying and in the middle two weeks apricot picking. Hay baling and stacking at 30¢



an hour during the first and third weeks were reported at Windsor. Active crops at Thornton were tomatoes, cherries, beets, corn, and hay. The greatest average family earnings were from the camps in this region, with \$12.87 being the average earning per family having at least one member employed.

San Joaquin Valley Camps (Westley, Visalia, Shafter, Arvin) - The principal jobs reported at Westley were thinning peaches at 30¢ an hour the first two weeks and tying and washing carrots the first and third weeks. At Visalia fruit work at 25¢ and 30¢ an hour throughout and hoeing in the first half of the period furnished employment. Chief work at Shafter was picking potatoes for 30¢ and 35¢ an hour. Cotton chopping, onion cutting, plum and apricot picking, and general ranch work were also reported. For the first two weeks principal work at Arvin was in grapes, sulphuring, thinning, and girdling at 25¢ and 30¢ an hour.

Imperial and Coachella Valley Camps (Indio, Beaumont, Brawley, Holtville) - For the third successive four-week period the most favorable employment situation was in this region. Conversely average distance traveled to the job was smallest here. For the first two weeks tying carrots was still the most frequently reported job at Holtville. At Brawley some employment was obtained at construction work at 50¢ an hour, and a few other monagricultural jobs. Jobs at Indio were picking corn at $22\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ to 30¢ an hour, picking tomatoes and working in grapes. Cherry picking at $1\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ to 2¢ a pound furnished much employment at Beaumont throughout the period.

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON
FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT
TO THE PRESENT TIME
BY
JOHN B. BOWEN
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Arizona Camps (Agua Fria, 11-Mile Corners, Yuma) - The Yuma camp has been opened, the first report coming in for the week of June 1st. About a third of the jobs were loading and irrigating cantaloupes. Work in hay and cotton and general farm work was also noted. Most of the work at 11-Mile Corners was cotton chopping either for 60¢ an acre or \$2.00 a day. For the first half of the period there was cotton chopping also at Agua Fria; carrot tying became the most important job in this camp at the beginning of the fourth week.

The smallest average family earnings were in this region. The employment index which averaged 22.2 for the four weeks ranged from 10.3 in the first week to 57.2 for the week ending June 8th. In this week when the man-days available for employment showed such a high degree of utilization, average earnings per employed worker were low. That is, in this week when 83% of the workers were employed, each worker averaged lower earnings than the worker in the first week of the period when only fifteen per cent of the available workers reported employment.

Table 1.

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT*

Agricultural Workers Living in PS/ Migratory
Labor Camps in California and Arizona
May 18 to June 15, 1940

	Week Ending				Four Week average
	May 25	June 1	June 8	June 15	
1. Percentage of workers receiving employment.	34.1	32.1	41.4	30.6	34.5
2. Percentage of families with at least one worker employed:	53.8	50.9	55.8	48.0	52.2
3. Average workers per family:					
(a) Employed on other than public assistance	.72	.64	.76	.61	.68
(b) Unemployed	1.32	1.24	.95	1.22	1.18
(c) Total workers	2.10	2.00	1.84	1.99	1.98
4. Average days employment:					
(a) Employed workers	3.67	3.78	3.67	3.36	3.64
(b) All workers	1.25	1.21	1.52	1.03	1.25
5. Employment index**	20.9	20.2	25.3	17.2	20.9
6. Average distance (in miles) from camp to job	7.7	6.5	7.0	6.5	7.0
(Camps included in above figures)	(15)	(16)	(16)	(13)	-
(Families included in above figures)	(197)	(212)	(197)	(179)	(785)

* Public assistance projects excluded.

** Mean days employment received on other than public assistance projects ÷ mean days available for employment (allowing for a six-day week). If all workers were fully employed the index number would be 100.

Table 2.

SUMMARY OF WEEKLY EARNINGS*

Agricultural Workers Living in FSA Migratory
Labor Camps in California and Arizona
May 18 to June 15, 1940

	Week Ending				Four week average
	May 25	June 1	June 8	June 15	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1. Average earnings:					
(a) Per worker employed	8.69	8.99	8.56	9.24	8.84
(b) Per worker: all workers	2.97	2.89	3.55	2.83	3.05
2. Average family earnings:					
(a) Per family with at least one worker employed	11.56	11.33	11.67	11.71	11.56
(b) Per family: all families	6.22	5.77	6.52	5.63	6.04
(Camps included in above figures)	(15)	(16)	(16)	(13)	-
(Families included in above figures)	(197)	(212)	(197)	(179)	(785)

* Public assistance projects excluded.

Table 3.

WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT BY REGIONS*
Agricultural Workers Living in FSA Migratory Labor Camps
in California and Arizona
May 18 to June 15, 1940

	Week ending					Four week average
	May 25	June 1	June 8	June 15		
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMPS						
1. Per cent of workers employed	37	28	37	37		35
2. Per cent of families with at least one worker employed	55	45	55	64		55
3. Average earnings: per family with at least one worker employed						
4. Average earnings: all families	\$13.03	\$12.94	\$12.62	\$12.92		\$12.87
5. Employment index	\$ 7.19	\$ 5.78	\$ 6.96	\$ 8.27		\$ 7.02
6. Average miles from camp to job	21.8	16.1	20.0	23.1		20.3
7. Number of camps included in above calculations	9.3	7.1	6.9	7.4		7.7
8. (Number of families included in above calculations)	(5)	(5)	(5)	(4)		(-)
	(58)	(56)	(58)	(50)		(222)
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY CAMPS						
1. Per cent of workers employed	42	25	23	22		28
2. Per cent of families with at least one worker employed	65	41	35	36		44
3. Average earnings: per family with at least one worker employed						
4. Average earnings: all families	\$12.45	\$11.84	\$15.39	\$11.55		\$12.68
5. Employment index	\$ 8.11	\$ 4.80	\$ 5.38	\$ 4.24		\$ 5.61
6. Average miles from camp to job	27.9	17.9	14.0	13.0		18.3
7. (Number of camps included in above calculations)	7.4	6.2	8.1	7.1		7.2
8. (Number of families included in above calculations)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(4)		(-)
	(66)	(74)	(63)	(66)		(269)

* Public assistance projects excluded.

Table 3 (Contd.)

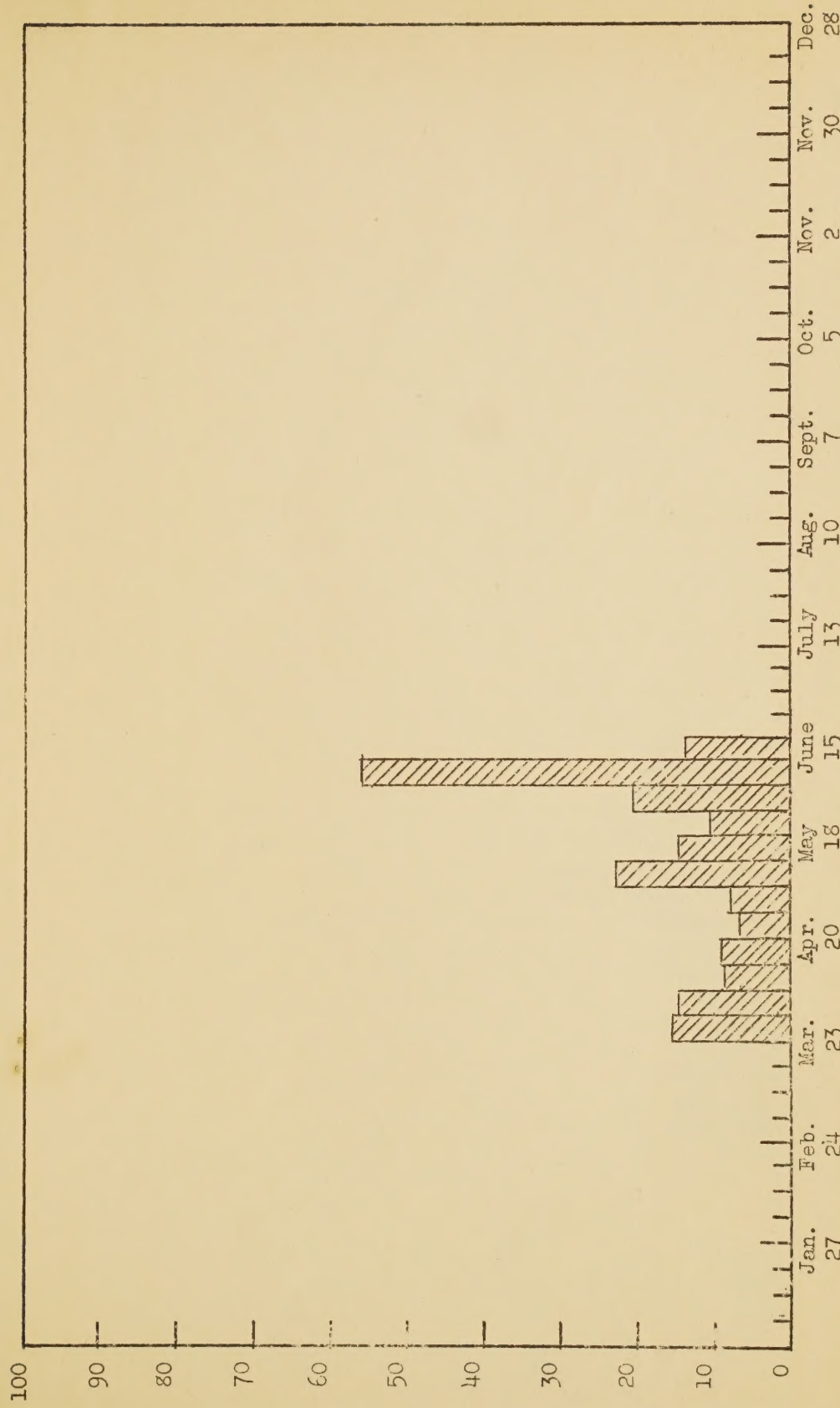
WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT BY REGIONS*
 Agricultural Workers Living in FSA Migratory Labor Camps
 in California and Arizona
 May 18 to June 15, 1940

	Week ending					Four week average
	May	June	June	June	June	
	25	1	8	15	15	
IMPERIAL AND COACHELLA VALLEY CAMPS (INCLUDING BEAUMONT)						
1. Per cent of workers employed	36	51	52	77		49
2. Per cent of families with at least one worker employed	50	69	64	70		62
3. Average earnings: per family with at least one worker employed	\$9.94	\$11.85	\$13.95	\$8.07		\$11.29
4. Average earnings: all families	\$4.97	\$8.20	\$8.87	\$5.65		\$7.04
5. Employment index	18.4	29.5	31.2	24.2		25.8
6. Average miles from camp to job	5.2	5.2	4.0	5.7		5.0
7. (Number of camps included in above calculations)	(4)	(4)	(4)	(2)		(-)
8. (Number of families included in above calculations)	(38)	(39)	(33)	(20)		(130)
ARIZONA CAMPS						
1. Per cent of workers employed	15	32	83	19		33
2. Per cent of families with at least one worker employed	34	60	81	37		54
3. Average earnings: per family with at least one worker employed	\$6.98	\$8.64	\$7.10	\$12.59		\$8.52
4. Average earnings: all families	\$2.39	\$5.23	\$5.78	\$4.69		\$4.63
5. Employment index	10.3	20.8	57.2	13.4		22.2
6. Average miles from camp to job	9.7	7.6	8.5	4.4		7.7
7. (Number of camps included in above calculations)	(2)	(3)	(3)	(3)		(-)
8. (Number of families included in above calculations)	(35)	(43)	(43)	(43)		(164)

* Public assistance projects excluded.

WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT INDEX* FOR ARIZONA

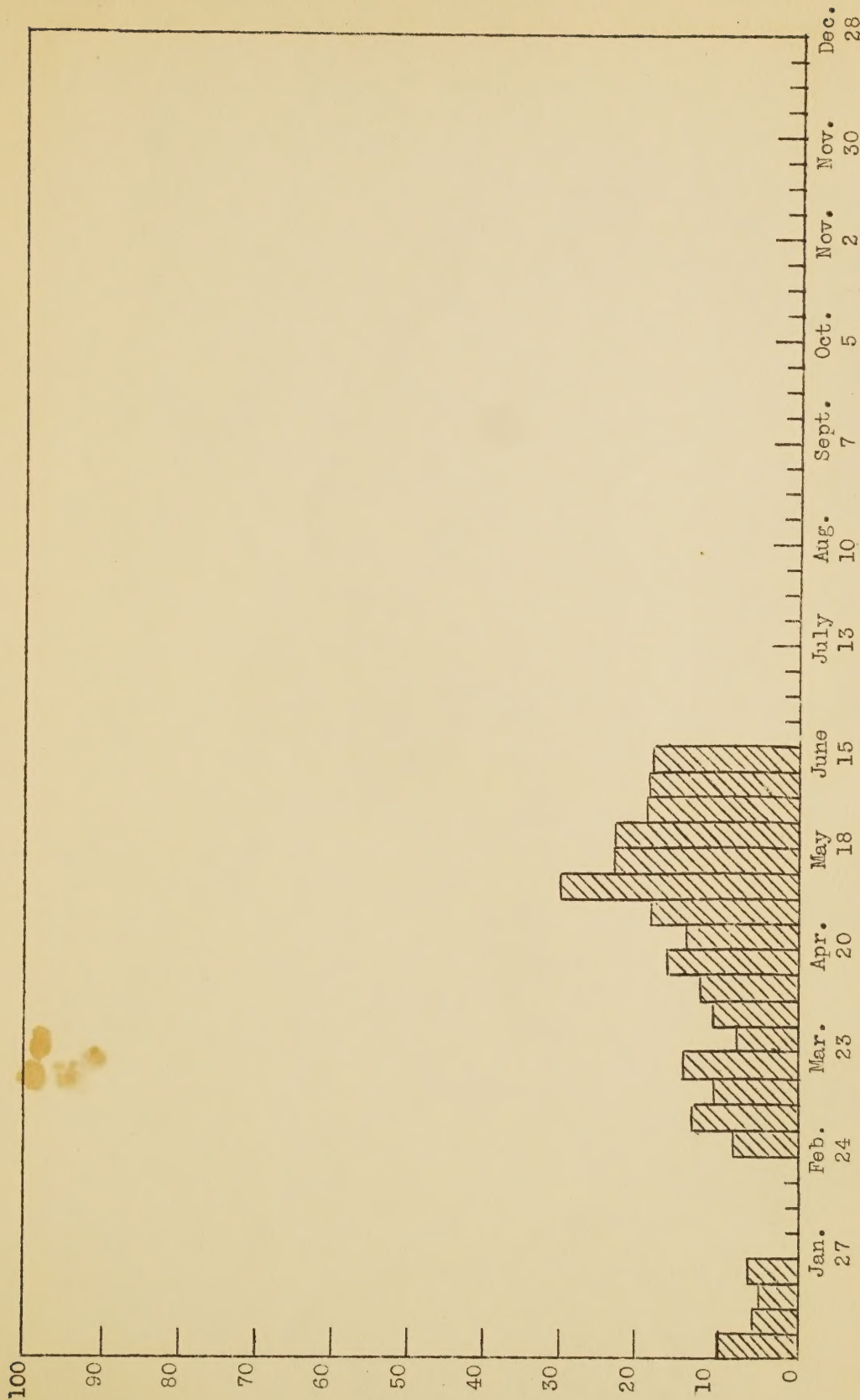
Farm Workers Living in Farm Security Administration Migratory Labor Camps.



* The employment index is determined as follows: Aggregate man-days employment on other than public assistance projects for the week is divided by the aggregate man-days available for employment (employed plus unemployed), allowing for a six-day week.

WEEKLY EMPLOYMENT INDEX* FOR CALIFORNIA

Farm Workers Living in Farm Security Administration Migratory Labor Camps



* The employment index is determined as follows: Aggregate man-days employment on other than public assistance projects for the week is divided by the aggregate man-days available for employment (employed plus unemployed), allowing for a six-day week.

